## REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated
October 22, 2004. Claims 1 to 25 remain in the application, of which Claims 1, 7, 21 and
23 to 25 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully
requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 18, 19, and 21 to 25 were rejected under 35
U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,911,044 (Lo) in view of U.S. Published Application
No. 2002/0059362 (Maeda). Claims 3 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over
Lo in view of Maeda, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,223,223 (Kumpf). Claims
6, 15 to 17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Lo in view of Maeda, and
further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,168,444 (Cukor). Claims 12 to 14 were rejected under
35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Lo in view of Maeda and Cukor, and further in view of Kumpf.
Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The invention of independent Claim 1 concerns a computer network
scanning system for filling a scan order over a computer network. At least one computer
terminal is adapted to receive input for creating the scan order and for sending the scan
order to an order entry server. The scan order includes at least one network address to
which the scanned image is to be sent and the network address is input by a requestor. At
least one order entry server is configured to receive the scan order from the computer
terminal and to create and distribute scan orders to at least one scanner node.
Correspondingly, each such scanner node is configured to select a scan order from a

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plurality of scan orders received from an order entry server, and each such scanner node is configured to generate a scanned image based on the selected scan order and to send the scanned image to the network address included in the selected scan order.

One feature of the invention that is emphasized by the amendment to Claim 1 is the structure for selecting one scan order from a plurality of scan orders in the scanner node. For example, as shown in one representative embodiment of the invention at Figure 6 of the subject application, step 635 selects one of the scan orders in a queue. According to this feature, the subject invention provides the advantage of scanning based on a selected scan order.

Dependent Claim 6 of the present application provides for a more specific arrangement for achieving a selection of a scan order, in the form of a scan order queue updater and a sorter module. In entering the rejection of Claim 6, the Office Action conceded that Lo and Maeda do not disclose the scan order queue updater and the sorter module of Claim 6. According to the rejection, however, Cukor disclosed such a structure. However, as against the broader concept of Claim 1's selection of a scan order from a plurality of scan orders, Cukor merely discloses the queuing of a document image. Queuing of a document image is fundamentally different from queuing of a scan order, such that it cannot be said that Cukor in any way discloses or suggests selection of a scan order from a plurality of scan orders received from an order entry server.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that independent Claim 1 is fully in condition for allowance.

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Independent Claim 7 concerns a computer network scanning method for fulfilling a scan order over a computer network having at least one scanner node. The scan order is created at a local computer terminal, wherein the scan order includes an identification of an item to be scanned and an address of at least one of the individuals selected from groups enumerated in Claim 7. The scan order is submitted to at least one scanner node for processing. At the scanner node, the identification of the item to be scanned is displayed, based on the identification included in the scan order, and the scan order is processed. The scanner node is thereafter updated.

Independent Claims 21 and 23 to 25 correspond generally to independent Claim 7, although independent Claim 1 further specifies storage and retrieval of the scan order at a central database.

Amendments have been made to each of Claims 7, 21 and 23 to 25 so as to emphasize the feature of a display of an identification of the item to be scanned, based on identification information included in the scan order. For example, as seen in the context of one representative embodiment of the invention, an identification might be displayed such as shown in Figure 12C which shows the display of document names. By virtue of the feature of a display of the identification of an item to be scanned, the present invention achieves the advantageous effect of ensuring appropriate scanning, such as scanning in a desired order where there are multiple scan items.
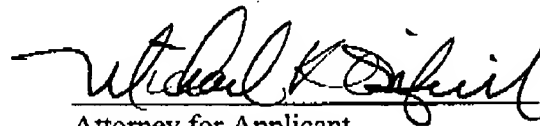
The applied art has been reviewed, but is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of a display of identification for the item to be scanned based on

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identification of the item in a scan order.  It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims

7, 21 and 23 to 25 are fully in condition for allowance.

No other matters being raised in the Office Action, it is believed that the

entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously

solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,

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our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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